



**CITY OF LONG BEACH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE**  
**COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND CHILDREN**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 28, 2004**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Rebecca Turrentine, Chair, called the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children to order at 5:15 p.m., in the large conference room at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Senior Center. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

**Present:**

Rebecca Turrentine, Chair  
Pierre Batton, Vice Chair

Sotheara Chhay  
Fabian Gonzalez  
Helen Ingram  
Elijah Kemp-Bowdre

Jeanetta McAlpin  
Marc Rothenberg  
Mary Soth  
Chelsii Summerville

**Absent:**

Gregory Corbin (resigned)  
Kate Levinstein (excused)  
Jon Meyer (excused)  
Chanel Suarez (excused)  
Christopher Young (excused)

Alexis Peterson (excused)  
Lauren Perry  
Jessica Quintana (excused)  
Jennifer To (excused)

**Staff:**

Cynthia Fogg, Superintendent, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Andrew Romero, Youth Specialist, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Dan Hendricks, Commission Clerk, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

**Guests:**

9<sup>th</sup> District Council Member Val Lerch  
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager  
Kevin Pregovisk, Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Marine  
Suzanne McMillan, Long Beach Public Library  
Cecile Walters, Neighborhood Services Bureau  
Mary McAuliffe, NAMI-LBA LWV/LBA

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was moved by Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre and seconded by Commissioner Soth to approve the June 23, 2004 Commission on Youth and Children minutes. After a small clarification of the minutes by Commissioner McAlpin, the motion carried unanimously.**

### **III. COMMENTS (PUBLIC) 3-minute limit**

Mary McAuliffe, with the League of Women Voters and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Long Beach, addressed the Commission on the issues of mental health among youth and children and the lack of adequate care for them in most mental health facilities. She briefed the Commission on the results of studies from USC done in 1996 and 1999 that asserted that of nine hospitals in Long Beach, only one of them had mental health units for teens. Mary McAuliffe expressed the hope that more data would soon be available and encouraged the Commissioners to investigate that possibility. Staff was given information on a contact, Nancy Watson, of the Community Health Council, who can be reached at (323) 295-9372. Mary McAuliffe also later offered an invitation to the Commission to attend the Second Community Forum on Mental Illness, which will occur at 6:00 p.m. on September 21<sup>st</sup> at Community Hospital. The forum will focus on Prop 72, the Mental Health Services Initiative.

### **VI. Reports** **c. Reports**

**Budget 05 Impact on Youth and Children and Those who Serve Them** - Due to scheduling concerns, Commission Chair Rebecca Turrentine then altered the agenda order to give precedence to Deputy City Manager Suzanne Mason, who addressed the Commission regarding specific budget cuts for the City's fiscal year 05-06, beginning on October, 2004 that may have an impact on youth, children and those who serve them. She informed the Commission that the City Manager will deliver a proposed 2005 budget to the Mayor on July 30<sup>th</sup>, and that it will become publicly available on August 15<sup>th</sup>. When questioned about Youth programs facing cuts, Suzanne Mason mentioned that the City Manager and Chief of Police are proposing to suspend the P.A.L. and D.A.R.E. programs to re-deploy the officers back to patrol. Likewise, the Mobile Recreation Program is being reduced in areas that are not CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funded. A proposal is also being put to the council to restructure the day camp program so that the higher-level staff day camps would no longer take place. Branch libraries have also received cuts, with each library branch being closed for one day and staff being shuffled among the remaining open libraries. However, the libraries are maintaining all their family learning centers and the Raise a Reader program. They will also be cutting the library materials budget back to 2001 levels and reducing youth library programming. The Discover Long Beach Parks program is being reduced to five sites. The Deputy City Manager then took some time to stress that many of the programs are still running and that while the libraries are open one day less each week, all of the branches are still open. Deputy City Manager Mason then opened the floor to questions, and clarified the cost increase at local golf courses for Commissioner Rothenberg. Commissioner Ingram asked for specifics on how many cuts would be made to Youth Programs and how it would compare to the overall budget cuts and was informed that the information would be available.

**It was moved by Commissioner Soth and seconded by Commissioner Chhay to receive and file the presentation from Deputy City Manager Suzanne Mason on the 2005 budget and it's impact. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

CYC administrative issues update:

Cynthia Fogg introduced the new Commission Clerk, Daniel Hendricks, to the Commission, highlighting his past experience.

Ms. Fogg updated the Commission on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grants. Twenty million dollars in grant money was given to start 34 programs throughout the city. On October 14, 2004, a celebration will be held in conjunction with the Lights On After School observance, which will recognize the importance of after school programs in the community. An invitation was issued to Assemblymember Lowenthal to attend the festivities to acknowledge his efforts in helping to secure funds for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program. The Celebration will probably be held at one of the 34 schools involved in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program, though to date a specific campus has not been determined. Ms. Fogg asked the Commissioners to note the date.

Cynthia Fogg also informed the Commission that Karen Pittman, the guest speaker at this year's annual forum, was in town to meet with United Way of Greater L.A. and asked to meet with her. Ms. Fogg alerted Karen Pittman that the Commission would be interested in being involved in future municipal initiatives. Karen Pittman also gave some insight into our Gang Violence Prevention Task Force effort and feedback as to how our program runs compared to other cities.

Ms. Fogg also responded to comments about the new city website not being completely accurate and informed the Commission that the CYC link is misdirecting people to the Health Department's Youth Services, which is incorrect. However, the Webmaster is aware of the situation and is working to fix it. Additionally, the Commission on Youth and Children is no longer listed among the other City Commissions after the change to the new design. The Mayor's staff has been notified and the omission should be corrected shortly.

The Commission has also been invited by the Mayor to be guests again on the Mayor's Heart of the City show. This particular taping will be on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and will address the Commission's role in the League of California Cities Annual Conference in September. Ms. Fogg suggested that Commissioners Batton and Young attend the taping.

The Coral Youth Leadership Institute is having a Graduation and Film Festival on August 6<sup>th</sup> and Cynthia Fogg suggested that Commissioners Batton and McAlpin attend as they are both from the 1<sup>st</sup> district, which is where the graduation will be held.

**V. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

Commission Chair Turrentine reminded the Commission about the necessity of having a quorum in order for the Commission to act in an official capacity. She requested that any Commissioners that know they are going to be absent from upcoming meetings notify Cynthia Fogg's office as soon as possible.

Commission Chair Turrentine then took the opportunity to congratulate several Commissioners on recent achievements. Commissioner Rothenberg was recently elected as Vice-Chair of the Youth and Gang Violence Task Force. Commission Vice-Chair Pierre Batton was selected as a member of the Dream Team and player of the year in Boys Tennis.

Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre addressed the Commission to announce his resignation from the Commission. On August 18<sup>th</sup>, he is leaving Long Beach to attend the University of Florida, where he is majoring in Business Administration, and thus unable to continue his duties as Commissioner. Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre was presented with a plaque commemorating his service to the Commission.

Commission Chair Turrentine raised a point of jurisdictional precedence for when the Commission and DLYAC are addressed with problems involving school sites. She suggested that should a problem arise involving a Commissioner's school, the Commissioner should contact the ASB member who sits on the LBUSD Superintendent's Advisory Council. If it is at a campus the Commissioner does not attend, they should bring the issue to the attention of Commissioner Meyer.

Commission Chair Turrentine asked Council member Val Lerch to address the Commission. Council member Lerch took the opportunity to thank Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre for his efforts with the Commission and to give him a certificate of commendation for his work.

Commission Chair Turrentine discussed her and Commission Vice Chair Batton's attendance at a Youth Engagement Task Force event at the Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Both Chair and Vice Chair sat on that panel and Commission Chair Turrentine reported that Commission Vice Chair Batton did an outstanding job in giving a great perspective on meaningful youth engagement. At the event, one of the issues covered was the sharing of power in joint youth and adult activities. In keeping with this, Commission Chair Turrentine discussed the option of altering the officer titles of Chair and Vice Chair to Co-Chair anywhere a Vice Chair exists in our commission structure.

**It was moved by Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre and seconded by Commissioner Rothenberg to change the title of "Chair" and the title of "Vice Chair" both to "Co-Chair", not only for the Commission at large, but also for any sub-committee where we have a Chair and a Vice Chair currently. The motion carried unanimously.**

Commission Co-Chair Batton reported on his attendance at the Walt Disney Concert Hall event. The main topics of the event were the principles of Youth Engagement and how to get more people involved in activities. The L.A. County Children's Planning Council, who co-hosted the event, had a presentation on keeping a positive atmosphere while engaging youth.

## **VI. REPORTS**

### **a. Committees**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**, Commissioner Turrentine and Batton, Co-Chairs **(July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting)**

The committee was responsible for the development of the Agenda for the Commission on Youth and Children's meeting. They also worked on a draft of By-Laws for the Commission on Youth and Children, which will continue to be worked on for the next few months, and then submitted to the Commission for correction and adjustments. The Executive Committee also had a conference call with the League of California Cities talking about the upcoming event in September for which they are planning youth activities. In the conference call, the Executive Committee discussed the possibility of getting Governor Schwarzenegger to address the League of California Cities. Co-Chair Batton proposed that the Commission draft a letter to the Governor requesting his presence. It was suggested that this correspondence be mailed as soon as possible to increase the likelihood of a positive response.

#### **REPORT CARD COMMITTEE** Commissioner Soth, Committee Member **(July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting)**

The committee has had recent openings and Commissioner Soth was seeking another adult member of the Commission to join her on the Report Card Committee. Commissioner Ingram accepted this invitation. When the committee last met, they had a special guest, Lynn Winters, Superintendent of Research for the Long Beach Unified School District. She is willing to assist the Commission, but at present, scheduling conflicts are keeping her from most meetings. Christina Santos, who will be graduating in January from Cal State Long Beach, will fill a part time position for the Report Card Committee. She has an undergraduate degree in Sociology and it will be her responsibility to help coordinate the various elements of the report card, to include incorporating various graphs and information from various sources. She will begin as soon as her new employee paperwork is processed.

#### **LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES (LCC) PLANNING COMMITTEE** Commission Co-Chair Batton, Committee Member **(July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting)**

Commissioner Batton and Mr. Romero investigated facilities at the Hyatt as a location from which to host the youth activities during the League of California Cities event. Co-Chair Batton detailed the various organizations that are donating funds to assist in paying for the events of the day. The Commissioners discussed a rough schedule of the day's events as well as clarifying that Long Beach would be hosting one day of activities, and not the entire week. The event was offered as an opportunity to introduce Long Beach's Commission on Youth and Children to the various visiting representatives of other communities. Ideas were discussed for an "icebreaker" activity of some sort, but specifics were held off for later meetings of the planning committee.

**It was moved by Commissioner Summerville, and seconded by Commissioner McAlpin to nominate Commissioner Batton and Commissioner Young to serve as Co-Chairs of the LCC Planning Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**b. Standing Items**

**I. Education and Youth Strategic Plan**

No report for this meeting

**II. District Level Youth Advisory Councils**

**a. Report on June DLYAC meetings.**

Andrew Romero and the various youth Commissioners present reported on the following schedules for the District Level Youth Advisory Councils.

<i>District 1</i>	No meeting in July
<i>District 2</i>	New Staff, Lauren Templin
<i>District 3</i>	3 more youth added to DLYAC, discussed LCC
<i>District 4</i>	Pending - there is a new council member and we will be contacting their new staff person to schedule the next meeting.
<i>District 5</i>	No meeting in July
<i>District 6</i>	No meeting in July
<i>District 7</i>	Meeting included a presentation from the Gang Alternative Program, which is based out of San Pedro and primarily focuses on 4 <sup>th</sup> graders.
<i>District 8</i>	Pending - there is a new council member and we will be contacting their new staff person to schedule the next meeting.
<i>District 9</i>	No Meeting in July

Commissioner Rothenberg and Commissioner McAlpin discussed the various gang alternative programs within the city and how they related to the Gang Alternative Program that addressed the 7<sup>th</sup> District Youth Advisory Council.

**It was moved by Commissioner Soth and seconded by Commissioner Ingram to receive and file the reports from the July DLYAC meetings. The motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Commissioner Chhay and seconded by Commissioner Soth to receive and file the upcoming meeting schedules for the District Level Youth Advisory Councils. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **III. Youth and Gang Violence Task Force**

Commissioner Rothenberg reported the Youth and Gang Violence Task Force met on Wednesday, July 7, 2004. The YGVTF had appointed Michael Gillette as its Chair and Commissioner Rothenberg as its Vice-Chair. They also had presentations by the Long Beach Press-Telegram and Charter Communications. Commissioner Rothenberg emphasized that the Task Force is still somewhat lacking in youth members and that more youth engagement should be strongly encouraged at DLYAC meetings. Commissioner Rothenberg also reported that the current CYC representative was resigning.

**It was moved by Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre and seconded by Commissioner McAlpin to nominate and appoint Commissioner Chhay to serve as the youth representative, replacing Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre, for appointment to the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Commissioners were provided copies of the following outgoing correspondence:

Letter dated July 28, 2004 to Reggie Harrison, the Deputy City Manager recommending an increase in the level of youth engagement on the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force.

**It was moved by Commissioner McAlpin and seconded by Commissioner Rothenberg to authorize staff to re-draft a letter to the Deputy City Manager recommending an increase in the level of youth engagement on the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force, with specific recommendations including the appointment of a second CYC Commissioner, Commissioner Gonzalez, to the Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. **Anti-Bullying Legislation (April 28<sup>th</sup>, 04)** - The CYC voted at its April meeting to have staff from the Office of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez return with further information on the legislation, including the bill language before deciding

- upon a position. **Status:** CYC staff contacted Congresswoman Sanchez's office to set up a date for returning more detailed information.
- b. **Executive Committee Meetings with Mayor and City Council (April 28<sup>th</sup>, 04)** **Status:** Review the schedule of proposed Executive Committee meetings with Mayor and City Council, which indicates scheduled dates of meetings along with names of those Commissioners who reside in the district and who may wish to participate in the meeting. No action necessary.
  - c. **Long Beach Youth Fund (April 28<sup>th</sup>, 04)** **Status:** Pending funding.
  - d. **Youth Services NETWORK Executive Planning Committee (EPC) nomination process for recognition award – Status:** Pending
  - e. **Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Workshops for CYC (May 26<sup>th</sup>, 04)** - The CYC authorized staff to contract with YLI to organize two additional workshops intended to advance youth/adult relationships and their impact on policy. **Status:** The CYC held the initial workshop on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3-5:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting of the CYC and is contracted with YLI for two additional workshops and staff support.

**A motion was made by Commission Co-Chair Batton and seconded by Commissioner Ingram to authorize staff to confirm the date of August 25<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for the second YLI workshop. The motion passed unanimously.**

## VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 04-14 Youth Engagement Task (YET) Force – A Call To Action

The Commission suggested that staff draft a letter to the LA County Youth Engagement Task Force Co-Chair, Steven Giraldo, requesting a presentation on the Call to Action Report and update on the county initiative at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CYC, make a similar presentation to the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Youth and Gang Violence Task Force and to present the findings once more to the youth participants at the California League of Cities Annual Conference on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rothenberg and seconded by Commissioner Chhay to authorize staff to write a letter to Steven Giraldo to be approved and signed by the Commission Co-Chairs and sent to Mr. Giraldo. The motion passed unanimously.**

## VII. **COMMENTS**

### • STAFF

Andrew Romero reported that Commissioner Kate Levinstein was just finishing up a tour of Western Europe as a Music Ambassador.

### • COMMISSIONERS

Chair Turrentine encouraged the Commissioners to bring ideas or suggestions to the committee as a whole. She stated that this is the time to bring forth any and all comments or concerns regarding the work of the CYC or its actions.

Commissioner Gonzalez reported on his attendance at the Chicano-Latino Youth Leadership Project. He was selected from a pool of over 800 applicants to be one of the 140 people in the project.

Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre reported on his attendance at the Afro- Academic, Cultural, Technological, & Scientific Olympics (ACTSO) in Philadelphia. Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre competed in Oratory and placed second.

Commissioner McAlpin reported that she is not currently attending the Youth Councils in her district because she's working with a youth council that formed in Carmelitos.

#### **VIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 25th, at 5:00 p.m.**

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Commissioner Kemp-Bowdre and seconded by Commissioner Chhay to adjourn the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children at 7:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.**

**This information is available in an alternative format by request  
to Jane Grobaty at (562) 570-3232.  
The City of Long Beach intends to provide reasonable accommodations in  
accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If a special  
accommodation is desired, please call Daniel Hendricks  
48 hours prior to the meeting, at (562) 570-3538.**